

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
5/10/15 – 5/23/15**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Brian Lasanen contacted a subject operating an ORV against the flow of traffic in a careless manner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman contacted two anglers fishing with live bait on a lake where fishing is limited to artificial bait only. One of the subjects also did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Elton Luce reported a high volume of ORV activity. Many groups of ORVs were contacted and checked for valid ORV licenses. One ORV in the last group of ORVs checked did not have a valid ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen contacted several anglers on Lake Gogebic. One subject was operating an unregistered watercraft. When checking another watercraft one of the anglers was found fishing without a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken during both contacts.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Ryan Aho contacted two anglers fishing a trophy catch and release only lake. The subjects were fishing in medium to heavy rain not expecting to be checked. One of the subjects was fishing without a valid fishing license. The subjects stated that they did not catch anything and had no luck. During the course of the contact a stringer with two walleye attached was discovered along the shoreline approximately 30 yards from where the anglers were fishing. One of the anglers stated that he caught one fish and the other subject caught the other. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter responded to the complaint of subjects throwing beer bottles into the water in Iron County. CO Painter located the suspects and made contact. The three occupants of a canoe and kayak had no personal flotation devices (PFDs), two were minors in possession, one was fishing without a license and two subjects admitted to throwing the beer bottles into the river. Enforcement action was taken.

This week CO Grant Emery assisted Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructors and Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with a Hunter Safety class in Gogebic County. The 86 students from local grade schools also received instruction on trapper education.

CO Grant Emery contacted an angler who indicated that he had one legal walleye exactly 15 inches. Upon measuring the fish it turned out to be exactly 14 inches. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brett DeLonge and Marvin Gerlach responded to a complaint of anglers keeping smallmouth bass before the season opened near the lighthouse of the Menominee River. Upon contact with the three anglers the officers immediately observed the anglers using invasive Gobies as bait. The anglers explained that the Gobies were working well for catching smallmouth bass. Further investigation of the lighthouse area led to a bucket filled with a total of nine smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brett DeLonge and Brian Bacon had a busy day patrolling areas of the Michigamme River for the opener of the Upper Peninsula walleye season. The officers contacted numerous anglers and conducted multiple marine and fish checks with exceptional compliance. With many sublegal walleyes being caught and released, the only violations observed during a marine check were for an improper number of life jackets where law enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter worked marine activity on local lakes during the holiday weekend. Good compliance was found for providing proper safety equipment and PFDs. Two boaters were ticketed for failing to register their watercraft.

CO Brian Bacon investigated two fires in Dickinson County. One fire involved a train bridge that was deliberately set on fire. The fire was quickly extinguished without damaging the tracks. The second fire was a six acre fire in rural Dickinson County. It was determined that the fire was started from heavy machinery that was being operated in the area earlier that morning.

CO Brian Bacon stopped an ORV operator traveling at a high rate of speed on the roadway. The subject was operating against the flow of traffic and had failed to register the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brett DeLonge and Marv Gerlach contacted two ORV operators without helmets operating on the roadway. The ORVs were unregistered and the operators' driver's licenses were suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the scene of a 20 acre wildfire in Dickinson County. The landowner had tried to burn a small wildlife food plot, but the fire quickly escaped and spread. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy was first on scene of a personal injury vehicle accident in Dickinson County. The 16 year old female driver was traveling at a high rate of speed when the vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. A male passenger was taken to the hospital with serious head and neck injuries.

CO Grant Emery contacted a subject at a boat launch who had just pulled a boat out of the water. CO Emery talked with the anglers about their fishing activities. The subjects did not have any fish, but it was discovered that one of the subjects had purchased

resident licenses in both Michigan and Wisconsin. CO Emery has contacted a Wisconsin Warden and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Grant Emery completed three charter boat inspections involving boat owners who reside just across the state line. After completing the inspections, CO Emery assisted the neighboring wardens with a check of a boat that came in after fishing in Michigan waters of Lake Superior.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when he observed a vehicle in his rear view mirror approaching at a high rate of speed. The vehicle sped past CO Hammill and was paced at over 85 mph in a 55 mph zone. After conducting a traffic stop, the operator advised the officer that he was having a nervous breakdown and needed to drive fast. CO Hammill asked if there were any weapons in the vehicle, with a long pause the operator replied, "I don't think so". Upon further investigation a .12 gauge shotgun and a .22 caliber rifle were discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kevin Postma, Bobby Watson and Sgt. Gerald Thayer held a hunter's education class in the Rudyard area certifying 18 new hunters.

CO Kevin Postma investigated a wolf / cow depredation complaint. While traveling out to the scene a wolf was seen running away from the cow that was on the ground giving birth to a calf. The calf was partially eaten and the cow had to be put down due to severe injuries sustained from the wolf.

CO Kevin Postma investigated a wild fire that was likely intentionally set. Approximately 2.1 acres of state land burned before fire crews could suppress it. The investigation is ongoing at this time.

CO Kevin Postma worked ORVs in the Paradise area over the Memorial Day weekend making numerous contacts and issuing many warnings and tickets for various infractions.

CO Jeff Panich worked on Drummond Island over the Memorial Day weekend. Over 100 contacts were made, most being very positive. Unfortunately, a few riders were operating in closed areas, with open intoxicants, and not wearing helmets. One operator of a motor vehicle decided he didn't need to license his truck figuring an ORV sticker on the bumper would cover the requirements of licensing. CO Panich discussed the issues with all; enforcement action was taken with several individuals.

CO Jeff Panich was working ORVs in the Kinross area when he received a complaint of dirt bikes operating on the shoreline of a local lake. CO Panich responded and was able to locate the operator of the dirt bike. It was determined that the individual was a juvenile who decided to go riding without his parents' consent. While trying to locate the operator's parents, CO Panich observed another dirt bike riding on the road also being

operated by a juvenile and doing so without a helmet. The operator spotted the CO and fled. CO Panich opted not to pursue the dirt bike; he was able to follow the tracks and set up surveillance. A short time later he observed the same dirt bike and juvenile operator. This time the officer was able to stop the dirt bike. Both juveniles' parents were contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken observed a motorcycle with an expired registration as he was fueling up at a local gas station. A traffic stop was conducted after the operator left the station. Upon approaching the cycle the operator indicated that he was in a rush to get to his destination so the traffic stop would have to be quick. In addition to the expired registration the operator did not have a cycle endorsement. Midway through the stop the operator told the officer that he was going to leave the traffic stop because CO Busken "Was out of time". CO Busken told the operator that he would advise him when the stop was over. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Busken observed a vehicle blow through a stop sign from M-48 to M-129 at approximately 30 mph. A traffic stop was conducted. When asking the operator about his driving record the operator described it as good. A driving history check revealed 14 traffic tickets in the last eight years. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Busken and Bobby Watson were patrolling South Manistique Lake when they observed a vessel with an expired registration. While contacting the owner it was discovered that the owner had never transferred the vessel into his name. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson was patrolling a local river when he discovered a large illegal dump site. The suspect had dumped several trash bags of household refuse and dirty diapers which had been torn open and spread throughout the area. After investigating the site further a suspect was found. Contact was made with the suspect who alleged that they believed the site to be an established landfill. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a local trout stream for trout anglers, CO Watson contacted a pair of anglers coming off the water at the access site. A quick check inside of the anglers' cooler revealed an overlimit of brook trout. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Mike Hammill worked the walleye opener together. Numerous verbal warnings were given and tickets issued. One group of lucky anglers had over 20 walleyes and northern pike in a live well at their cabin. Upon measuring the fish it was discovered that several were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson reports a relatively slow walleye opener in the Straits area. Anglers on Brevort Lake, Pine River and Cedarville had some success on pike and perch, but few walleye. Fishing activity was high this past weekend in Cedarville, with good compliance.

CO Brett Gustafson is working on two separate litter investigations. Suspects have been identified, with continuing efforts to locate them.

CO Brett Gustafson worked ORV operators over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Compliance was high, activity low.

CO Brett Gustafson handled a nuisance beaver complaint in Cedarville. Upon arriving on scene it was apparent a permit would be issued. The beaver had the landowner's property badly flooded.

CO Robert Freeborn and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel were patrolling Little Bay De Noc during walleye opener when they came across anglers who had some luck fishing. When asked how big the fish were, the subject stated one was definitely a keeper and the other measured just 15". Upon measuring the walleye, it was determined that it was significantly shorter than the 15" requirement. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint regarding a domestic dog caught in a snare in a river. After CO Freeborn located the snare using the GPS coordinates given, it was determined that it was a coyote caught in the snare, not a domestic dog. Upon further investigation it was determined that the snare was tagged with a Sault Ste Marie tribal tag. CO Freeborn was able to get ahold of the tribal police and turn the investigation over.

While working Memorial Day weekend CO Robert Freeborn located a boat on Indian Lake with faded registration and MC numbers. Upon further investigation it was determined that the boat was last registered in 2001. Enforcement action was taken.

Also during the Memorial Day weekend, CO Robert Freeborn located a vehicle parked along a local trout stream. When CO Freeborn exited his patrol truck it was determined that two of the subjects had poles in their hands while the third was observing. After a brief conversation with the subjects, they were asked for their fishing licenses. The subject who didn't have a pole in his hand stated he didn't have one and wasn't fishing, the second was obviously under age and the third stated that it was back at the motel. CO Freeborn asked again if they had one because he would be double checking the computer. The subject replied that it was back at the motel. After a quick check on the computer it was determined the subject had not purchased a license this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn contacted occupants of several boats on a local lake. Overall compliance was good except for two boats that did not have any PFDs on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Crisp checked several anglers on Grimes Lake over the holiday weekend. CO Crisp found that two of the anglers were fishing without licenses and one of their vessels was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Crisp passed a vehicle traveling on a dirt road in southern Alger County. CO Crisp observed two young children hanging out of the passenger window and estimated the truck's speed at approximately 40 mph. CO Crisp conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and contacted the driver who was also not wearing a seatbelt. Enforcement action was taken due to the circumstances and two verbal warnings were also given.

CO Robert Crisp responded to a personal injury ORV accident in Grand Marais near Au Sable Lake. CO Crisp assisted first responders with first aid and transportation of the victim to a waiting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) unit. From the scene it appeared that the side-by-side had struck or jumped a large sand hill causing the driver to be ejected from the vehicle. Unfortunately it was later found that the accident was fatal.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon conducted a hunter safety class to a group of students in Munising.

COs Jared Ferguson and Mike Evink stopped to check on a vehicle that was stuck on a railroad right-of-way. A friend showed up to help and it was found that the friend was driving while suspended and was on bond for operating while under the influence of drugs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call from central dispatch regarding an airboat operating in the Portage Marsh Recreation Area. CO Ferguson responded to the scene at midnight and waited for the boat to come into shore. CO Ferguson contacted the boat a short time later and found that the individuals were operating without life jackets readily accessible. CO Ferguson educated the boat operator on marine safety and warnings were given to the occupants.

CO Jared Ferguson and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel worked Little Bay De Noc on the walleye opener. The COs battled poor weather all day and were still able to make over 150 contacts and cover the entire bay. No tickets were written and compliance was high.

Acting Sgt. John Wenzel and a Detective from the SIU worked a problem area in Delta County. The area has been a dumping ground for fish guts and carcasses for many years. Contact was made with the subject who admitted dumping the fish parts. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. John Wenzel was checking anglers at the Ford River access site. One subject stated his license was back in his truck. Upon checking, it was found the subject had not purchased a license for some time. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Duane Budreau observed several ORVs climbing hills in the Wycamp Lake area. The operators were ticketed for operating on state land in a closed area. They were upset because they thought all closed areas should be posted.

COs Mike Feagan and Eric Bottorff found ORVs in an area restored from ORV damage on state land. Both were ticketed.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick ticketed several subjects operating ORVs in closed areas at the Black Mt. Recreation Area.

While completing reports in his patrol truck near a wetland area, CO Eric Bottorff heard "Whoo-hooo" and the sound of ORVs. CO Bottorff found two subjects on ORVs tearing up the wetlands. Both were ticketed.

CO Steve Speigl received a complaint of dirt bikes operating in the Jordan Valley, where all ORVs are prohibited. CO Speigl located the ORVs and ticketed the operators.

CO Andrea Erratt located two lost mushroom hunters on their ORV. They had been driving cross-country all over state land. After being found and ticketed, the operator admitted he'd been warned several years ago for the same violation, but thought the law may have changed.

CO Andrea Erratt and a DNR forester contacted several subjects on ORVs operating in closed areas on state land with expired ORV licenses, operating while driver's license suspended and with open intoxicants. Tickets and warnings were issued for the various violations.

CO Andrea Erratt observed smoke and investigated. She pulled into a subject's camp just in time to see him throw another tire into a burning brush pile. A ticket was issued.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a wildfire and met with DNR fire personnel. The subjects had started a campfire and then took a walk. The campfire escaped into the woods and burnt about one-half acre before fire fighters were able to extinguish it. Enforcement action was taken.

On opening day of bass season, CO Steve Speigl and an intern checked an angler who was very reluctant to show the CO his catch. He found a 12-½" bass in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint on Medusa Creek of subjects attempting to snag and net fish. CO Erratt was able to watch the subjects for a while and then contact them. Violations included attempting to snag, fish without license, and recreational trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff watched several subjects in the woods and observed one of them throw a beer can. After they left without retrieving the can, he made contact and ticketed him for littering.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a call at 3:30 a.m. of a bear treed in the City of Charlevoix that would not leave. The bear was in the back yard of a residence, between a school and US 31. Sgt. Drogowski and a City police officer kept the bear treed at daylight, and kept onlookers away from the area. Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologists arrived with a tranquilizer gun and successfully darted the bear and transported him away in a bear trap.

COs Matt Theunick, Andrea Albert, and Duane Budreau all gave presentations to the Boy Scouts, Women on Target, and a school group on the history and duties of Michigan Conservation Officers.

COs Nick Torsky and Mark DePew responded to numerous complaints about ORVs; the officers responded and issued tickets ranging from careless operation to operating in a closed area.

CO Nick Torsky participated as part of the Honor Guard in the Otsego County Police Memorial during National Police Week.

CO Brad Bellville was patrolling state land when he contacted a 10 year old operating an ORV by himself on a machine that was not licensed. The CO followed him back to his residence and issued the parent a ticket for the unlicensed machine and gave a warning for allowing the youth operate unsupervised.

CO Brad Bellville responded to a wild land fire near a state forest campground in the Pigeon River Country. Upon investigation fire personnel determined the origin of the fire was a campfire pit. CO Bellville and Sgt. Joe Molnar contacted the individuals who were camping and thought they had put enough water on the fire to put it out and then went trout fishing. When they returned to the campsite the woods was on fire. They then called 911 and tried to put it out. A ticket was issued for failing to take precautions to prevent the spread of fire; they will be billed for the suppression costs.

COs Brad Bellville and Kelly Ross were following a slow moving vehicle on state land. Once the driver realized the officers were behind her she accelerated and started driving carelessly. She then continued down a dead end two track where the officers conducted a traffic stop. Upon contacting the driver she was found to be in possession of an open beer, marijuana, and was operating the vehicle while intoxicated. She was arrested and lodged in the Montmorency County Jail.

COs Brad Bellville and Kelly Ross were on patrol when they observed three motorcycles jumping the ditches alongside a busy road in Lewiston. CO Ross activated his emergency lights and one of the vehicles fled while the other two stopped. The officer stayed with the two that stopped and requested assistance from other law



enforcement officers who began looking for the other rider. The officers asked the riders to text their friend who answered and agreed to return to their location. The rider stated he fled because the motorcycle he was riding had a license plate on it and he did not have a cycle endorsement. He was ticketed for failing to stop for the officers.

CO Mark DePew was watching three anglers who had been catching bass on a lake in Otsego County. Upon contacting the subjects they were found in possession of undersized bass and were issued a ticket for the violation.

CO Mark DePew reported that an individual who had been charged with shooting an eight point buck without a license last deer season was charged \$5,000 in restitution.

CO Paul Fox received a complaint that a .22 rifle was found at the boat launch at Onaway State Park. CO Fox interviewed the subject who found the rifle and secured it as evidence. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling Lake Nettie when he encountered two anglers. Upon investigation, it was found that neither subject had a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol when he observed a vehicle in front of him drive through an intersection and leave the roadway. The vehicle struck a large sand berm, which totaled the vehicle. Fortunately for the driver, no major injuries were sustained. CO Fox was able to secure the scene and assisted local deputies with the investigation.

COs Paul Fox and Jon Sklba were patrolling Black Lake when they observed a vessel without valid registration or MC numbers. Upon investigation and contact with the operator, it was found that the vessel was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling a remote lake in Presque Isle County when he observed three subjects in a small boat fishing near shore. Contact was made with the subjects and CO Fox asked to see their fishing licenses, PFDs, and the registration for the vessel. None of the listed requirements were present, as they had not purchased their licenses, had no PFDs on board, or valid registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was dispatched to a child custody complaint where the parent and legal guardian were disputing custody rights. CO Fox was able to calm the parties down and return the child to the proper guardian.

CO Paul Fox contacted a subject waiting to launch a boat that had an expired registration. CO Fox advised the owner that he could not operate the boat until current registration was obtained.

CO Bill Webster patrolled state land and issued tickets to ORV operators who were operating in prohibited areas and driving through rivers.

CO Bill Webster investigated an ORV accident where an operator was riding on state land illegally. The subject then trespassed on private property and drove into a barbed wire which struck him in the face. The landowner had recently put the fence up to keep trespassers out. The rider was ticketed for illegally operating on state land and warned for trespassing.

As CO Jon Sklba was checking the launch site on Black Lake the driver of a boat coming to the docks flagged him down requesting first aid. The angler was fishing in a bass tournament and had caught a 50 inch Muskie. The angler then reached into the fish's mouth to retrieve his lucky lure and the giant fish bit him, exposing bone and tendons on the angler's hand. CO Sklba bandaged the subject's hand and advised him to go the hospital for stitches.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

Several conservation officers including COs Sam Koscinski, Sean Kehoe, and Rich Stowe assisted DNR Wildlife Division personnel with the removal of a sow bear and three cubs from a Cadillac area subdivision. The bear and cubs had wandered into the subdivision and remained in tree overnight creating safety and traffic concerns. Wildlife and Law Division employees, with the assistance of fire department personnel, were able to capture and relocate the bears the following morning after they failed to leave the area. The bears were successfully relocated to a less populated area several counties away near the Pigeon River State Forest.

Working a routine ORV patrol in Lake County, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky found themselves meeting head on with an off-road golf cart operating on a county roadway in their lane of traffic on a blind curve. The COs were able to avoid colliding with the ORV then quickly realized the operator and passengers were attempting to flee the scene. Just prior to conducting a traffic stop, the COs watched as the occupants threw beer cans from the cart. Enforcement action was taken for the open intoxicants, illegal operation of an ORV and careless driving.

While checking a damaged area on state land, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky located a Jeep stuck in a sand bowl. The COs contacted the operator about the illegal operation, and while there, watched as two more trucks and two ORVs entered that same illegal site. Contact was made with all the other operators, and enforcement action was taken.

While on a marine patrol out of the Ludington Harbor, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky checked a charter boat trolling in Lake Michigan. The COs asked the anglers for licenses and one subject stated that he had purchased his license but had "forgotten it". He gave the COs his name and the officers continued checking the remaining passengers. The COs found it odd that each person would hold up their license individually, and then return below deck where the next subject would then surface and display their license. CO Brosky ran the subject who claimed to have a license and found that there was no purchase for the current year and questioned him about it.

They also had everyone stand on the deck of the boat and asked them to hold their licenses up in unison which revealed they were passing the same license between three passengers. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky were checking anglers on Hamlin Lake when they watched a vessel with four subjects fishing. As they approached, only one person continued fishing, and the others set down their poles. When asked for licenses, three of the persons onboard said they were not fishing. The COs asked if there were any fish on the boat and they stated that there were. The only licensed angler told the officers that he didn't catch any of the fish. After the COs explained that they were done listening to untruthful statements, all admitted to fishing. It was also discovered that one subject had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, Lake County, stopped three ORVs for operating on an illegal hill climb. After receiving identification from the three individuals, it was discovered that one subject had warrants for his arrest and was operating while suspended. The subject with a valid warrant was lodged at the Lake County Jail and the other riders were issued tickets for illegal operation.

CO Josiah Killingbeck stopped a subject in Lake County for illegal ORV operation and found that he had met the operator during the prior snowmobile season. The operator proudly revealed that the CO had stopped him and his buddy for running a stop sign this past winter while snowmobiling, advising that his friend was taken to jail for a warrant. The CO remembered the contact and advised him that they had to stop meeting this way. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was working a marine patrol with a Lake County Marine Deputy when they encountered a boat operating without a current registration. CO Killingbeck stopped the operator and asked if the boat was currently registered and also asked to check the safety equipment onboard. It was found that there was no throwable PFD available and that the fire extinguisher was missing a pin and had already been completely discharged. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Michael Bomay and CO Mike Wells were on foot patrol in Newaygo County and observed two subjects in a rowboat fishing a small lake. Surveillance was set on the watercraft and a short time later the watercraft arrived at the launch. Contact was made with the anglers and it was discovered that there were no PFDs in the watercraft. The owner of the watercraft was ticketed for failing to provide PFD in a rowboat.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was dispatched to an address regarding a subject who was burning debris. At the time of the call burning was not allowed due to dry conditions. CO Wells arrived with the fire department and contacted a subject burning a large pile of natural material along with a small amount of construction material. The subject was warned regarding the illegal burning of construction material and ticketed for burning without a permit. The fire department extinguished the fire.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was on patrol checking area lakes when he observed a subject kayaking and fishing. Surveillance was set on the watercraft and Officer Wells observed the subject catch several fish. The subject was then observed returning to a local campground on the shore of the lake. When the CO located the subject in the campground and requested a fishing license, the subject produced a 2014 fishing license. CO Wells asked the subject for a valid license and he advised he thought his license was valid. It was determined that not only did the subject not have a current fishing license but that he also drove to the campground on a suspended driver's license. The subject was ticketed for the no fishing license violation and advised to locate a valid driver for his vehicle.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was on patrol at Silver Lake Sand Dunes when he observed a group of subjects standing in the flats area watching the day's events. A female was observed holding what appeared to be a beer can in a cooler wrap and when CO Wells approached the female he observed her shove the beverage in the front pouch area of her hoodie sweat shirt. The subject was advised to remove the container and it was confirmed it was a can of beer. Further visual inspection of the vehicle she was next to revealed several other unopened containers of beer. The female subject was ticketed for the unlawful possession of alcohol at Silver Lake Sand Dunes. Several other violations were issued regarding no valid operator's license in possession and fail to transfer title of ownership of ORV during the day's patrol.

CO Ben Shively of Oceana County had a busy weekend enforcing ORV violations. CO Shively issued a ticket for failure to wear a helmet on a dirt bike and provided several verbal warnings for various ORV related violations.

CO Troy Mueller of Osceola County was on patrol and contacted two anglers on Center Lake. Both anglers dropped their fishing poles when they saw CO Mueller approaching. Neither subject had a valid fishing license or any identification on them. CO Mueller was able to identify both subjects and determined one subject had multiple warrants for his arrest, including one for fishing without a license out of Lake County. Both subjects were ticketed for fishing without a license and the subject with the warrants was arrested and transported to the Osceola County Jail.

COs Angela Greenway and Brian Lebel of Mecosta County attended a Hunter Safety Field Day that was attended by 25 students.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Jason McCullough contacted a couple anglers who used a railroad right of way to access a remote section of the Muskegon River in rural Clare County. When CO McCullough asked about their catch for the day, they hesitated and stated that they had caught and kept a rock bass. An inspection of the fish revealed a different story. The fish was actually an undersized largemouth bass. Based on the interview, it was determined both subjects actually knew better and a ticket was issued for the violation.

While checking a couple anglers on a lake in Clare County, CO Jason McCullough asked about the day's catch. One of the anglers stated that they had caught a pike. The angler quickly added that the pike was a little short and was in their live well. In addition, the angler stated that he planned on releasing the pike but needed to keep it long enough to show one of his fishing buddies. A measurement revealed the pike was only 18 inches long, a half foot short of legal requirements. The officer issued a ticket for the violation.

CO Steve Lockwood's diligence paid off as he checked a remote road ending at a local lake in Gladwin County. As it turned out, the subject had caught and kept a 19 inch pike and was getting ready to leave. During the course of the conversation, the angler stated that he knew better and his guts told him to put the fish back. Next time he will probably listen closer to his gut feelings as not listening led to a ticket for possession of an undersized pike.

Sgt. Jon Wood was on marine patrol in Gladwin County when he observed a lone angler on shore with what appeared to be too many lines. After watching for a spell, Sgt. Wood approached the angler's dock and asked about his fishing luck and if he had a license. The angler stated that his license was inside and that some of the rods belonged to other subjects in the cabin. Not observing any other subjects in the area earlier, Sgt. Wood offered to go to the cabin himself and ask the occupants about the fishing rods. The angler then stated that it was not necessary, that all four rods were actually being used by him. He further stated that only one other person was even awake in the early morning hours. He apologized for the misleading information stated that he was bored waiting for everyone to wake up. He further stated that he had left one of the lines in the water all night in hopes of catching a catfish. A ticket was issued for fishing with too many lines and a warning was given for leaving an unattended line in the water overnight. Sgt. Wood spent several minutes answering questions so that those types of violations could be avoided in the future.

CO John Huspen received a litter complaint where several bags of trash had been dumped and ripped apart by critters. CO Huspen located the litter piles and was able to search through them and found a name of a possible suspect. Follow up investigation revealed that the subject lived in another town and drove past the area where garbage was dumped while driving to work. The dump site was less than a mile from where the subject worked. CO Huspen contacted the subject and obtained a full confession to littering. Enforcement action was taken and cleanup was achieved as well.

CO Mike Hearn investigated an ORV personal injury accident in Kalkaska County. Upon arrival it was determined that the victim had fallen off his motorcycle while turning around. While on the ground, another person, operating a four wheeler, ran over the victim's leg, causing it to break at the knee. The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment.

After returning home one night from patrol, CO Mike Hearn received a complaint regarding several trucks operating in a mud hole on state land. Someone was posting

pictures of the trucks on Facebook and the activity was currently in progress. CO Hearn responded and was able to contact five vehicles and approximately 25 people partying at the site. Several tickets were issued, a vehicle was impounded and one of the operators was arrested for driving while license suspended.

CO Mike Hearn was checking fishing activity on a remote lake in Kalkaska County when he contacted a couple fishing from shore. It was determined that the female was fishing without a license and her husband had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The wife was ticketed for the offense and her husband was arrested without incident and lodged in Antrim County Jail on the outstanding warrant.

While on patrol in southern Missaukee County, CO Matt Liestenfeltz contacted three subjects riding on a golf cart with a dog cage attached to the back. The driver of the golf cart was wearing a dog training remote control device while the passenger was carrying a holstered Ruger .44 magnum Redhawk pistol. Three hounds wearing training collars eventually showed up. CO Liestenfeltz issued the dog owner a ticket for dog training during closed season.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was working ORVs in a closed area when he observed a Polaris RZR with one occupant. When CO Liestenfeltz attempted to stop the operator of the RZR, he fled from the scene. CO Liestenfeltz was able to track the RZR to a road intersection where the ORV was intercepted and stopped. The driver was confused on his direction of travel; tickets were issued for operating an ORV in a closed area and failing to stop for an officer.

CO Chris Bowen received a complaint of anglers in a fishing boat keeping smallmouth bass out of season. CO Bowen responded to the complaint and watched the boat until contact could be made from shore. CO Bowen found two smallmouth bass in the live well. The subjects stated they believed they were just large rock bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chuck McPherson and John Huspen were patrolling Houghton Lake and contacted two subjects who were fishing, but stated they were "not trying to catch fish." Neither subject had purchased a 2015 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land near St. Helen, CO Chuck McPherson and Sgt. Jeremy Payne observed a jeep operating recklessly on state land. The operator of the jeep was doing "doughnuts" in a grassy area on state land. When the operator saw the officers he attempted to flee the area. The COs caught up to the jeep and made a traffic stop. When Sgt. Payne asked the driver if he knew why he was stopped the driver stated, "Because I was driving like an idiot." Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Reedsburg flooding, Sgt. Jeremy Payne witnessed an angler fishing from shore. When the angler noticed the officer he began to pick up his equipment. When he realized the officer was approaching quickly he began to fish again. When

Sgt. Payne contacted the angler he checked 21 nice bluegills in the angler's basket. The angler also stated that he had success the day earlier in Gladwin County on bluegills. When asked for his license, the angler admitted to not purchasing one for 2015. Enforcement action was taken and the nice bluegills were returned to the flooding.

COs Brian Olsen and Phil Hudson worked a group patrol for ORV activity during the Memorial Day weekend. The two officers issued over 30 tickets for many different ORV violations.

COs Brian Olsen and Josh Russell were patrolling back roads in Ogemaw County when they observed a vehicle travelling at a slow rate of speed. The operator was not wearing a seatbelt, so the officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Further investigation determined that the operator was in possession of a loaded gun in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Warner and Josh Russell were patrolling for ORV activity when they contacted two juveniles in a closed area. The two 13 year olds were engaged in a hill climb on ORVs when the COs made contact. They had no adult supervision and had not taken an ORV safety class. The COs followed them back to their camp and turned them over to parents. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Quincy Gowenlock was investigating a Facebook complaint of a subject posting pictures of him with speared muskrats. The CO responded to the suspect's residence to interview him. The subject advised that while he was sucker spearing he saw something swimming toward him. He went on to say he didn't know that it was illegal to spear muskrats. He was then shown copies of his Facebook page stating that this wasn't the first muskrat he has speared. It also showed another page where a friend told him it was illegal and his response was, "I know". The suspect just lowered his head in shame. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg, Dan Lee, and Quincy Gowenlock were conducting a joint ORV patrol in the Kawkawlin Flooding area when they heard the sounds of a vehicle revving the engine at high RPMs. As the COs searched the area, they located several pickup trucks parked on the trail and a mudder truck driving back and forth through a mud bog. The subjects were ordered to come out and upon contact were advised that it was illegal to be driving off road. The subjects claimed ignorance to the laws and after a brief discussion agreed with the COs. While CO Gowenlock obtained the drivers' information, COs Lundberg and Lee walked around the area where all the bystanders were watching and located partially full beer cans still cool to the touch. When asked, two other subjects admitted to tossing the beer cans when they saw the officers. A ticket was issued to the driver for operating in a closed area and littering tickets were issued to his friends.

While patrolling the Gratiot Saginaw State Game area for turkey hunters, COs Will Brickel and Dan Lee contacted several ORVs operating on the state land. Tickets were issued and information was provided to the operators.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Andy Bauer contacted an angler before the opener of bass season and during the contact located two smallmouth bass that the subject had kept. One bass was legal size and the other was extremely undersized. The subject was ticketed for keeping bass during the closed season.

CO Jeff Robinette was patrolling on a Cass County lake and made contact with two subjects who were fishing. One of the subjects didn't have a fishing license and it was discovered that he had a warrant for his arrest. The subject was ticketed for the fishing violation and was able to post bond for the warrant.

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Zach Doss patrolled Lake Michigan and made contact with several boaters and anglers. The occupants of one boat were fishing with too many lines and four subjects were located fishing without licenses. Tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss patrolled on Lake Michigan out of St. Joseph. One subject was trolling and when asked for a fishing license he tried to show a sportcard and an Indiana daily fishing license as a Michigan fishing license. Enforcement action was taken. In addition, a 48 foot unregistered boat was located that hadn't been registered since 2011 and then was registered improperly as an 18 foot boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer received a complaint of a beaver being shot out of season. CO Brewer teamed up with CO Jeff Robinette and they were able to locate the suspect after a lengthy investigation. The subject had shot the beaver with a .30 caliber rifle directly toward the lake in the safety zone of other residences, in addition to taking the beaver out of season with an illegal method. Warnings were issued for reckless discharge of a firearm and for the safety zone violation. The subject was ticketed for taking the beaver with the illegal method out of season.

CO Steve Mooney was checking anglers leaving the lake in the rain on Memorial Day and discovered a subject with an overlimit of panfish. The subject was ticketed for the violation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols is currently investigating a complaint of a subject with a coyote in captivity. The subject adopted the animal from a pet store as a six week old "shepherd mix." The DNR permit specialist is working with the subject to obtain proper permitting.



CO Shane Webster observed a dirt bike being operated on a local Jackson County roadway. Upon noticing CO Webster, the operator quickly sped away down the road. Familiar with the area, CO Webster responded to a residence nearby where he believed the operator had come from. Upon confirming the subject had come from that home he advised the residents to call the ORV operator and have him return immediately. The subject returned and stated he had just gotten scared when he saw the officer. Enforcement action was taken for operating on a public roadway, no helmet or eye protection and no ORV license.

COs Matt Page and Chris Reynolds patrolled the Coldwater Chain of Lakes making numerous contacts. Several verbal warnings were given for minor marine safety violations and one subject was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered vessel. The COs made contact with the operator who stated, "I knew it was expired but I thought I could sneak out without getting caught." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on marine patrol, stopped numerous boats for having expired registrations. Most of the boaters had the new registrations with them and put it on their boats during the stop. A few of the boats didn't have their current registration and didn't even know that their registration was expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on marine patrol, stopped a vessel for having an expired registration. During the stop the CO conducted a check of the vessel and asked to see PFDs for all of the passengers on board. The CO advised the driver of the vessel to help find the PFDs, as the passengers looked confused as to where to find them. Once the life jackets were located, it was found that they were short PFDs for all of the occupants on board. The CO explained the importance of having PFDs available for all occupants and knowing where to find them. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Reynolds and Justin Ulberg worked a marine patrol and stopped numerous vessels with expired registrations. All of the boaters had the current registrations on board, but had forgotten to put them on the vessels. Verbal warnings were given for minor marine violations.

## **DISTRICT 9**

Lt. Arthur Green, Sgts. Dan Bigger and Todd Szyska and COs Pete Purdy, Mike Drexler, Dan Walzak and Saykham Keophalychanh provided training in Wilderness Survival skills to a group of Beaumont One Medical Flight Crews. The group was taught how to start a fire, gather and filter water, and how to build a shelter. The group was very excited and enjoyed the training.

CO Mike Drexler assisted the MSP with a tanker truck fire/explosion on I-75 in Detroit. CO Drexler, along with MSP troopers, worked three different traffic points for several hours.

CO David Schaumburger was checking anglers in a marina when he came across a group of four anglers who had just pulled in. The anglers were busy putting equipment away in the truck when CO Schaumburger observed a five gallon bucket tucked in close to the cab of the truck. CO Schaumburger approached the anglers who were not very talkative, but the skipper said they had caught their walleye limit that day. The CO checked the fish and boat, and inquired about the bucket in the truck. The skipper had no idea about it, and said if there were fish in the bucket, his friend must have dropped them off to him without his knowledge. CO Schaumburger located the five gallon bucket that contained 13 walleye. The skipper was not very cooperative; however, he eventually admitted to taking two trips that day. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Todd Szyska and COs David Schaumburger and Kris Kiel were just beginning a group marine patrol when Sgt. Szyska viewed a group of anglers quickly packing up their cooler on shore. CO Kiel maneuvered the boat to let CO Schaumburger jump off onto the rocky shore to get a peek inside the cooler. CO Schaumburger approached the anglers, who stated they had a few rock bass in the cooler. Not only were there rock bass inside the cooler, but also an undersized smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken and the COs gave the anglers a quick lesson in fish species identification.

CO David Schaumburger came upon an angler dragging what seemed like a heavy cooler back to his vehicle. Upon contacting the angler and asking how the fishing was going, the angler was very quiet and had short answers. When asked what was in the cooler, the angler stated, "some fish." When asked how many fish, the angler stated that he thought there were 25. CO Schaumburger counted the white bass, and the angler was in possession of 40 white bass, putting him 15 over the limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was on his way to Belle Isle for the night shift when he observed a vehicle operating at a high rate of speed. The vehicle then swerved around several other vehicles and passed CO Becker on the right. The CO conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle and the driver explained that he was driving fast to get his kids home. CO Becker issued a ticket for careless operation of a motor vehicle.

CO Richard Cardenas was on his way to Belle Isle when a subject in a vehicle passed the CO at a high rate of speed. Officer Cardenas paced the subject at 95 mph and conducted a traffic stop. It was found that the subject was driving with a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Kevin Hackworth was returning home from a Belle Isle shift when he encountered a vehicle rolled over on its side on I-96 in Wayne County. The driver had not been wearing a seatbelt and was unconscious. He was twisted and pinned inside the vehicle with a severely bleeding head wound. Sgt. Hackworth climbed up onto the vehicle, opened the driver's side door and climbed down into the vehicle where the victim was pinned. He held the victim in a position that would allow him to keep an open airway and minimize further injury. Local EMS arrived, cut the window posts, and creased the

roof allowing the victim to be removed through the windshield. The victim suffered critical injuries but survived.

CO Justin Ulberg received a complaint in Lenawee County of a subject in possession of a largemouth bass during the closed season. The subject had posted a picture of the bass on a social media site showing the bass lying on a cutting board. CO Ulberg made several attempts to interview the subject at his residence but no one would answer the door. CO Ulberg made note of the subject's vehicle that was parked in the driveway. While out on a patrol CO Ulberg observed the subject's vehicle in front of him on the roadway. A traffic stop was made and CO Ulberg was able to interview the subject in question. The young angler admitted to keeping the bass out of season and claimed he was new to fishing and unaware of all the regulations. CO Ulberg provided the young angler with a fishing guide and explained the rules to him.

While checking anglers on the Raisin River in Lenawee County, CO Justin Ulberg contacted a father and two young children out fishing. The father stated that he was new to fishing and wasn't sure what he was doing or what fish species were even in the river. CO Ulberg gave the new angler some tips and was showing him some lures in his tackle box that would typically catch fish in the river. While going through the tackle box, CO Ulberg located an illegal multi-pointed weighted hook. CO Ulberg informed the angler that such hooks are illegal to possess and the hook was seized.

While conducting a marine patrol on Memorial Day Sgt. Todd Szyska contacted a subject kayaking in Lake St. Clair. The subject did not have a life jacket on board. When the subject was asked about it, he stated that he did not know that he needed one while he was on his kayak. The subject was escorted to shore and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of subjects taking an overlimit of white bass at the Nine Mile Pier. CO Kiel arrived just in time to witness the suspects walking to their vehicles in the parking lot. Two of the three individuals were carrying landing nets full of fish. After counting the white bass, it was found that the anglers were 20 over the limit of 25 white bass per person. The anglers explained they did not understand the limit and CO Kiel explained the law to them. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, David Schaumburger, and Sgt. Todd Szyska conducted a marine/fish patrol on Lake St. Clair over the weekend. During the patrol 22 vessels were contacted including 14 marine contacts and 54 angler contacts. Three tickets were written for fishing violations (no licenses, bass out of season), and six marine verbal warnings were given for displaying improper registrations.

While patrolling on the Black Creek COs Kris Kiel, David Schaumburger, and Sgt. Todd Szyska stopped a vessel that was displaying multiple years of registrations. The subjects on the vessel immediately verbally assaulted the officers and stated they were only being checked because of their race. The officers informed the subjects that they

had just launched, that the occupants had witnessed that, and that they were only doing their job. The subjects were in possession of panfish and had valid licenses, but one subject had a misdemeanor warrant out of the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court for disorderly conduct. The warrant was confirmed and valid, but the officers were told to advise and release. The COs gave verbal warnings for the violations and handed the one subject his LEIN hit paperwork explaining that he needed to contact the Court to take care of the outstanding warrant.

While patrolling on Harsen's Island, CO Ben Lasher and Sgt. Todd Szyska checked a father and son who were fishing. The anglers were doing pretty good catching bluegill but also had an undersized out of season largemouth bass they possessed in a cooler in the bed of the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Prince investigated a complaint of wildlife in captivity in Livingston County. The subjects had a Canada goose in a chicken pen. CO Prince advised the homeowner of the laws about picking up wildlife. CO Prince took the goose to the Howell Nature Center.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Rich Nickols worked an afternoon shift on Belle Isle and assisted with a medical call involving an employee with the Grand Prix as a possible jumper on the MacArthur Bridge. The subject was not located.

COs Jason J. Smith and Damon Owens were working a late night Belle Isle shift when they observed an individual drinking alcohol inside a vehicle. The officers contacted the driver and discovered that his driver's license was suspended 10 times and he had five warrants for his arrest. The driver was arrested and lodged at the Detroit Detention Center on his warrants.

CO Ken Kovach assisted with the lighting of the MacArthur Bridge ceremony in which the Penske Corporation highlighted the installation of the new lights on the bridge which they graciously donated.

CO Ken Kovach responded along with the Michigan State Police (MSP) to the Coast Guard Station on Belle Isle to handle a disorderly subject. CO Kovach had dealt with the subject a week prior and had to handle his boisterous outbreaks. The subject was making threats against the President of the United States and Secret Service was called and arrived on scene to interview the subject. After the subject calmed down the officers exited the scene. The subject later left the island.

While assigned to Belle Isle, COs Dan Lee and Saykham Keophalychanh responded to a complaint of an assault between two security contractor employees. A file check of both parties involved in the assault revealed that they both had active warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Belle Isle Park, CO Larn Strawn was dispatched to the Scott Fountain for a reported industrial accident involving a contractor employee working on the set up of the Grand Prix. The CO responded to the incident and identified a worker who had incurred an injury to their foot from an apparent collapse of falling equipment. The CO provided first aid to the victim until emergency medical personnel arrived. The victim was turned over to the medics.

While patrolling Belle Isle Park, CO Larn Strawn was dispatched to the Kids Row Playground area for a report of an infant choking. The CO responded to the playground and within seconds located the child in the arms of her mother. The CO encouraged the child to cough and cry and the child quickly coughed up a small piece of an apple. The CO stayed with the mother and child until all were smiling and ready for more swinging at the playground.

While patrolling Belle Isle Park, CO Larn Strawn contacted a group of people drinking alcohol in the parking lot at the Kids Row Playground. After identifying the subjects, the CO discovered one had six fugitive warrants in multiple local jurisdictions. The CO placed the person under arrest for the outstanding warrants. Officers from the Livonia Police Department responded to the park and picked up the fugitive. The CO took enforcement action for the alcohol offense in the park.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly contacted three females parked in a van near the Kid's Park on Belle Isle. The original contact was made due to the females placing garbage under their van. Upon contact, the CO noticed one of the females urinating in a five gallon bucket in the back of the van. The three had open beers and vodka in the vehicle. There were also warrants for their arrests. Enforcement action was taken.